

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1                   1.       (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid comprising the  
2 coding sequence of ~~SEQ. I.D. No.~~ SEQ ID NO: 1.

1                   2.       (Previously Presented)       A host cell transformed with a  
2 heterologous nucleic acid having a sequence identical to the nucleic acid of Claim 1 or a  
3 nucleic acid complementary to said heterologous nucleic acid.

3.       (Canceled)

1                   4.       (Currently Amended) A host cell transformed with a nucleic acid  
2 that encodes a heterologous polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of ~~SEQ. I.D.~~  
3 ~~No. SEQ ID NO: 2 or a heterologous polypeptide having at least 80% sequence identity~~  
4 ~~to said heterologous polypeptide.~~

1                   5.       (Currently Amended) A transgenic plant overexpressing the  
2 nucleic acid of ~~SEQ. I.D. No.~~ SEQ ID NO: 1 ~~or a nucleic acid complementary to SEQ.~~  
3 ~~I.D. No. 1.~~

1                   6.       (Currently Amended) A transgenic plant overexpressing a  
2 polypeptide ~~selected from the group consisting of~~ having the amino acid sequence shown  
3 in ~~SEQ. I.D. No. SEQ ID NO: 2~~ and an amino acid sequence having at least 70% identity  
4 ~~to the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ. I.D. No. 2.~~

1                   7.       (Currently Amended) A method of altering circadian rhythms and  
2 flowering in a plant comprising transforming the plant with a nucleic acid having the  
3 sequence of ~~the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ. I.D. No. SEQ ID NO: 1.~~

1                   8.       (Currently Amended) A method of altering circadian rhythms and  
2 flowering in a plant comprising transforming the plant to ~~alter expression of~~ overexpress  
3 a polypeptide having ~~either~~ the amino acid sequence of ~~SEQ. I.D. No. SEQ ID NO: 2.~~

1                   9.       (Currently Amended) A method of altering circadian rhythms and  
2 flowering in a plant comprising transforming the plant with a nucleic acid coding for a  $\beta$ -  
3 subunit ~~changing activity~~ of protein kinase CK2 within the plant.